

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel
Committee Meeting
February 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Board Chair Montel Gayles. This committee meeting was conducted in person.

Recording Secretary Mia Hannon conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Present

Trustee Leland Strom: Present

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present were President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper; Board Liaison and Chief Strategy Officer Matt Streb; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Yvonne Harris; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Carol Sumner; Vice President for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau; Vice President for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development and Chief Engagement Officer Rena Cotsones; Chief Human Resources Officer John Acardo; Professor Natalie Churyk, Department of Accountancy; Chair and Professor Jeanne Isabel, School of Health Studies; University Advisory Council Representatives Karen Whedbee and Larissa Garcia.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Perry indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act and advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2023. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Gayles welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief overview of the agenda. He also recognized the members of the University Advisory Committee who did not have a comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Gayles inquired to General Counsel Perry if any members of the public registered a request to address the board in accordance with state law and Board of Trustees bylaws. General Counsel Perry advised that no requests for public comment had been received.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Board Chair Gayles asked Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper to present the following university recommendations.

Agenda Item 7.a. Request for the Deletion of the Master of Science in Education in Educational Psychology

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. Request for the Deletion of the Minor in Social Change Leadership

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.b. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c. Request for New Minor in Health Administration

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.c. Trustee Athas so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.d. Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2023-2024

Board Chair Gayles reminded Trustee Moore he has to abstain from voting on this item.

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

Board Chair Gayles asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Abstain

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.e. Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2024-2025 Academic Year

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.e. Committee Vice Chair Butler so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Board Chair Gayles asked Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper to present the following informational items.

Agenda Item 8.a. Faculty Presentation on Sabbatical Leave

Interim EVPP Elish-Piper introduced item 8.a., Professor Natalie Churyk gave a faculty sabbatical presentation.

Trustee Herrero arrived at 9:01 a.m.

Agenda Item 8.b. Annual Report on the Outcomes of Sabbatical Leaves

Interim EVPP Elish-Piper introduced Agenda Item 8.b. Interim EVPP Elish-Piper presented an executive summary of the sabbatical report for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Agenda Item 8.c. Hispanic Serving Institution Presentation

Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Carol Sumner and Vice President for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau gave a presentation titled “(Emerging) Hispanic Serving Institution Designation; The Path, Process and Potential Benefits for NIU.”

OTHER MATTERS

Board Chair Gayles announced Trustee John Butler will be Committee Chair and Trustee Eric Wasowicz will be Committee Vice Chair of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee effective at the May 9, 2024 meeting. Board Chair Gayles asked if there were any other matters. There were none.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee will be Thursday, May 9, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Gayles asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Board Chair Gayles asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Hannon

Recording Secretary

In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.